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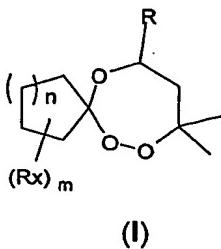
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(54) Title: 1,2,4,-TRIOXEPANES AS PRECURSORS FOR LACTONES



(I)

(57) Abstract: The present invention pertains to a novel process for the preparation of lactones by decomposition of a 1,2,4-trioxepane of formula (I) wherein, R is H or CH₃, n is 1-14, Rx independently is any substituent on the ring structure, including substituents which form bi- or tricyclic structures, and m is 0-34.